## **Rules of the Roth IRA Payroll Deduction Plan**

- Non-deductible contributions are combined with tax-free earnings, resulting in tax-free retirement distributions.
  - Earned income equal to or greater than contribution is required.
  - \$2000 maximum contribution per individual per year.
  - \$2000 per individual is the combined limit for all IRAs (Education IRA not included).
  - \$2000 spousal account contribution is allowed regardless of earned income (\$4000 per married couple).
- ➤ Investment earnings accumulate tax-free.
- ➤ Contributions (principal) may be withdrawn tax-free and penalty-free at any time.
- Qualified distributions of earnings are penalty-free and tax-free after <u>5 years</u> for any of the following:
  - Account holder reaches age 59<sup>1/2</sup>
  - Death of account holder causes distribution to beneficiary.
  - Account holder becomes disabled.
  - Account holder takes distribution for a first time home purchase.
    - \$10,000 Maximum.
  - Distributed for post-secondary education expenses. This type of distribution will be penalty-free, but account earnings will be taxed.

## ➤ General rules:

- Adjusted Gross Income limit for <u>single</u> taxpayers is \$95k, with limited participation to \$110k.
- Adjusted Gross Income limit for <u>couples</u> is \$150k, with limited participation to \$160k.
- Employer plan participation (i.e. 401(k) or Profit Sharing) is allowed without restriction on Roth IRA participation.
- Taxpayer can delay initial distribution beyond age 70<sup>1/2</sup> without penalties.
- Taxpayer can continue contributions beyond age  $70^{1/2}$  with earned income.
- 5 year waiting period for withdrawal of earnings begins in the tax year when the first contribution is made.